

# Kennel Quarterly



Rochester Police Department  
Animal Services Unit

### Special points of interest:

- Shelter Mural Donated
- Venomous Snakes & Alligator in Rochester Home!
- Animal Shelter Appreciation Week a Success!
- Another New Employee Hired
- Volunteers Needed!

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## Adoption Numbers

During the second quarter, our adoption figures were similar to those of the previous year's second quarter. However, we impounded 136 (15%) fewer dogs and 41 (7%) fewer cats compared to the second quarter last year.

There were 183 dog adoptions (24.7% of dogs impounded) during this second quarter compared to 171 (19.5%) last year. That represents 7% increase in absolute number of dog adoptions and a 5.2% increase in the adoption rate.

There were 115 cat adoptions (21.3% of cats impounded) this quarter compared to 90 (15.5%) last year. That's a 27.8% increase in absolute cat adoptions and a 5.8% increase in the cat adoption rate.

According to these second quarter numbers, we should be on target to exceed last year's adoption totals of 651 dogs and 379 cats, and as mentioned last quarter, we may reach those goals with fewer animals impounded.

Another successful quarter for adoptions! Our staff and volunteers are doing a great job. Let's keep striving to place more animals in good homes!

A key component that we must incorporate into our procedures is the training of shelter animals prior to adoptions. We plan to implement in-shelter training to stimulate more adoptions and to reduce the likelihood of relinquishment.



Larry was adopted during the second quarter.

## Animal Shelter Appreciation Week

November 3-9th was designated as National Animal Shelter Appreciation Week by the ASPCA to recognize shelters for the life-saving work they do. We kicked off the week with an Open House at the shelter on Sunday November 3rd. This was just the second year we have had an open house and

participation seemed to be improving. This year we attracted representatives from Mastiff Club of America Rescue, Hills Science Diet®, Bayer Advantage®, Certified Canine Good Citizens, Jewelry Pause, and Bow Wow Biscuits.

We adopted out five ani-

mals on Sunday and three more in the days following as a result of the event. Attendance may have been higher than last year, but there is still a lot of room for improvement. We are beginning to plan now for next year's event so it will be even bigger and better.

## Rochester Animal Services Statistics



Animal Services shelter in winter

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*"We must all take responsibility to spay and neuter our pets and to encourage others to do the same."*

	<u>Dog</u>	<u>Cat</u>	<u>Other</u>
<b><u>October</u></b>			
Impounded	270	207	23
Adopted	62	37	2
Redeemed	68	1	0
Transferred	20	10	12
Euthanized	109	163	3
<b><u>November</u></b>			
Impounded	246	181	18
Adopted	52	35	2
Redeemed	61	2	0
Transferred	3	6	6
Euthanized	116	125	12
<b><u>December</u></b>			
Impounded	224	152	43
Adopted	69	43	12
Redeemed	40	4	5
Transferred	8	8	6
Euthanized	98	90	14

Rochester Animal Services temporarily houses approximately 7,000 animals annually. We are committed to reuniting owners with missing pets and to placing animals in new homes, however it is impossible to find homes for all of them. Some animals are euthanized due to illness or injury. Others may display vicious or aggressive temperaments. Currently, the City of Rochester does not authorize the adoption of "pit bulls" from the shelter, so those that are not reclaimed are euthanized or transferred to Lollypop Farm. Sadly, many animals are euthanized because there are just far too many stray and unwanted animals in our community and we do not have space to house them all. We must all take responsibility to spay and neuter our pets and to encourage others to do the same. If the number of animals coming in declines, then we can devote more time and energy to those animals we do shelter, we can increase adoptions and redemptions and decrease euthanasia.

## On-site Spay/Neuter Clinic at the Shelter: Progress Report



Dog Isolation is site of proposed surgery room and observation area.

Last issue you may recall reading about the \$10,000 grant we received from PETS MART Charities for surgical and caging equipment required for establishing an on-site surgical unit. That money has been deposited and is being held until additional funds become available. The estimated total expense for construction and equipment was around \$45,000. We have acquired approximately \$6,000 of equipment plus another \$5,500 in unsolicited donations. There-

fore, with the PETS MART Charities grant, we will require another \$23,500 to reach our goal.

We submitted a proposal to the City's Capital Improvement Program again this year, however funding is not likely to come internally given the current fiscal climate.

We continue to pursue other organizations and foundations for additional funding. Many do not provide funding to municipal shelter such as ours. We plan to apply for the

Meacham Foundation Memorial Grant through the American Humane Association in the coming quarter. Hopefully, we will be able to procure the funds, get Department, City, and council authorization, and begin construction during the coming fiscal year.

The on-site clinic will enable us to isolate and treat more cats with URI in addition to maintaining high levels of canine sterilization. If more cats can be treated, then more can be sterilized.

## From the Director’s Chair

Our first issue was fairly well received, at least by those of you who actually noticed it and read it (just a little jab at our first “platooners” who apparently had no idea the newsletter had been distributed). In this second issue I thought I would continue with some of the same columns and expand on the newsletter with some additional sections. The idea is to keep everyone in tune with what we are doing, where we are headed, and any changes foreseen on the horizon.

For instance, there have been a few changes in our chain of

command over the past year and when such changes arise, this is one outlet for making such information public. Currently, our unit is within the Patrol Division and I am reporting directly to Deputy Chief of Operations Robert Maldonado. Once a permanent Commanding Officer is assigned to the Patrol Division, we may revert to that chain or we may continue as is. I will notify our staff once that decision is finalized.

This second quarter seems to have gone fairly well. We added a new Animal Care Technician, established stronger ties with

rescue groups and foster homes, improved the shelter appearance with the mural and interior paint jobs, had a successful open house in November, experienced another adoption peak during December, we implemented a suggestion box, and we assigned a supervisor to our first platoon. I think we are doing a great job and I hope we can continue to strive to excel and grow together. Again, I welcome submissions and suggestions for future issues. It’s not my newsletter. It’s all of ours.

Chris Fitzgerald



My cluttered, but busy work area.

## Kennel Noise (What’s going on in the shelter)

Many of you have probably noticed the colorful mural that has been appearing over the past few months. We had been toying with the idea of painting some sort of mural when one of our volunteers and owner of “fun house DESIGNS,” Bill Jones, offered his services *pro bono*. Bill met with Chris Fitzgerald to discuss his ideas and to share his portfolio of custom painted murals and furniture.

We accepted Bill’s offer and enlisted him to design something appropriate and whimsical for the main wall in the shelter atrium. Once the design was completed and approved by Ed Doherty, Commissioner of Environmental Services, and Pam Marcotte, Director of Architectural Services, we went paint shopping.

Bill began work on the mural in late November and continued

into December. Mary Jones, Bill’s wife and fellow RAS volunteer, also assisted with the painting. The idea was to liven up the shelter with some fun and color and it seems that Bill and Mary have done just that for us. Thank you Bill, Mary, and “fun house DESIGNS!”



Two shots of the mural painted in the shelter hallway.

## New Faces

During the second quarter of this fiscal year we hired Jessica Robinson as an Animal Care Technician once again giving us a complete staff in the shelter. Jessica had been working in the food industry prior to joining our staff. However, if she looks familiar, that is because prior to being hired, Jessica had been volunteering at the shelter for

more than a year. Jessica was hired in October and has done an excellent job learning her new duties and responsibilities. As with our last set of “new faces,” we are thrilled that Jessica has joined our team.



Jessica Robinson



Malnourished mastiff at shelter before being adopted by Mastiff Club of American

## RAS Teams with Rescue Groups to Save Mastiff Breeds

During the fall of 2002, Animal Services established a new policy regarding mastiffs and mastiff type dogs. Beginning in early November, RAS no longer places such dogs up for public adoption. Instead, whenever we impound any mastiff, bull mastiff, Neapolitan mastiff, or other mastiff type breed or mixed breed, we will contact representatives of Mastiff Club of America (MCOA) and they will coordinate with foster homes, prescreened adoption homes, and other rescue organizations to find the dogs suitable homes as quickly as possible.

There are several benefits to this new protocol. First, our

shelter is generally overcrowded and so having an outlet for virtually every mastiff type dog that enters our facility is a wonderful resource. The rescue groups and their volunteers and foster homes can devote more individualized attention to each dog they adopt from us. No dogs are placed in homes without a home visit and approval by rescue group volunteers.

These groups also have more substantial funding for medical treatment and even for dog training. Mastiffs with behavioral problems may be placed in foster homes with experienced handlers and then trainers can be hired to work with the dog

before permanent placement.

Additionally, there are traits of mastiffs that make them unique and therefore potentially difficult to care for or misunderstood. For instance they have a low threshold to pain and so should not be confined by invisible fencing. Mastiffs also are sensitive to both cold and heat, and so should not be kept as outside dogs. MCOA can help us find responsible and permanent homes for these gentle giants. Hopefully we can develop similar relationships with other breed rescue groups in the future.

*"It seemed as if every healthy cat that got adopted would develop symptoms the following day thereby preventing its sterilization."*

## Upper Respiratory Infection Still A Major Challenge

This quarter was even worse than the first quarter in terms of the incidence of Feline Upper Respiratory Infection (URI). It seemed as if every healthy cat that got adopted would develop symptoms the following day thereby preventing its sterilization. Spay and neuter surgeries can only be performed on animals that are in good health. That means that our options are either to remove the sick cats

from the healthy ones and provide 7-10 days of antibiotic treatment or alternatively, we can adopt out cats with URI with a sterilization contract. We have had to opt for the latter approach because of the limited space and financial resources for treatment. Instead, we let the prospective adopters know about the illness and the need for immediate veterinary attention. In this way, the cats

are removed from the infectious environment at the shelter, they are given appropriate treatment, and are provided with a new home and family.

We still hope to get the URI challenge under control so that we can have the cats sterilized before leaving our care. The altering deposits are only an incentive to get the animals altered, but we want to make it a certainty.



Pit bull type dogs make up the largest proportion of reported dog bites.

## Dog Bite Reports Rise in 2002

Animal Services handled 380 dog bites in 2002 compared to 329 in 2001. That represents a 15.5% increase from last year. As always, it is important to recognize that these are numbers of reported dog bites and are not the absolute number of actual bites occurring in the City. So it is impossible to determine whether this increase reflects an increase in the number of bites occurring or an increase in the proportion of bites that are

actually reported through 911, the Monroe County Health Department, or the Animal Services Unit.

The breakdown by breed shows moderate increase in rottweiler bites (44 compared to 31 in 2001) and chow chow bites (29 compared to 16 in 2001). The number of bites reportedly caused by pit bull type dogs was 118, no different than the past few years (117 in 2000 and 117 in 2001). The

number of bites reported for breeds other than the most common biters was also up from last year with 95 in 2002 and 78 in 2001.

It is interesting that the number of reported cat bites also increased by about 16% from 95 in 2001 to 110 in 2002. This similarity suggests that the increases in dog and cat bites may be due to increased reporting related to greater awareness of Animal Services.

## City Resident Cited For Alligator and Venomous Snakes

In mid-September, Animal Services received an anonymous tip regarding an alligator and numerous rattlesnakes being harbored at 15 Bremen Street. We contacted the Department Of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and shared the information that we had received. Tom Shannon coordinated a visit to the location on September 20, 2002 with DEC Law Enforcement and Rochester Police Officers.

Animal Control Officers Fred Parkinson and Denise Lybrand assisted Supervisors Shannon and Dan Murphy. Our ACOs were granted access to the location and we identified six venomous snakes (Eastern Diamondback rattlesnake, Western Diamondback rattlesnake, Cane break rattlesnake, Rock Rattlesnake, and two Copperheads), an American Alligator, a Catahoula Leopard Dog, and a Cane Corso plus a variety of other reptiles including pythons, boas, tortoises, and turtles.

DEC officers issued three NYS summonses to Patrick Hawkins for possessing animals without permits. We cited Hawkins for the appropriate City of Rochester Code violations including six citations for possessing venomous snakes, one citation for possessing the alligator, and two citations for unlicensed dogs.

Subsequently, Hawkins was able to secure a NYS license to possess the six venomous snakes, however the City Of Rochester does not allow such possession and Hawkins was denied a City permit for the venomous snakes and the alligator. As a result, Hawkins transported the snakes to a pet shop in Pennsylvania and the alligator to a reptile exhibitor in Rhode Island before his November 13 appearance date.

At the hearing, the examiner found Hawkins guilty of all violations, however the fines for possessing the venomous snakes were reduced to \$0 because

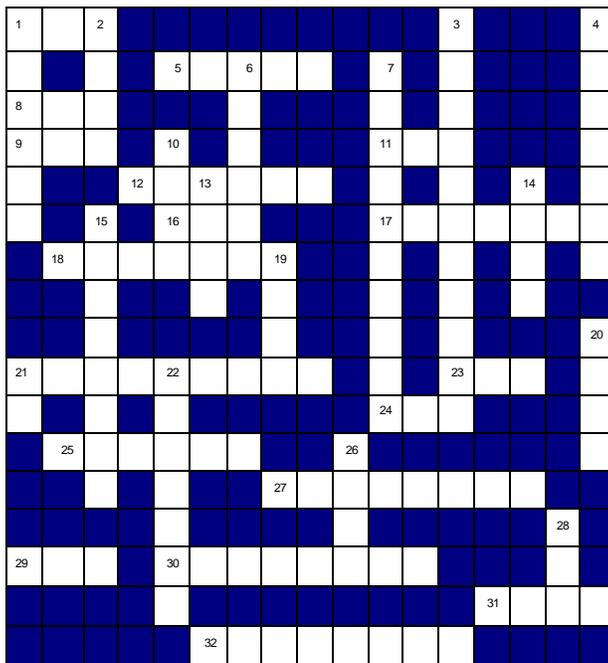
Hawkins had made the effort to get the appropriate permits and then disposed of the animals in a lawful and responsible manner. Therefore, the fines totaled \$200, \$100 for possessing an alligator without a City Permit and two \$50 second offense violations for possessing unlicensed dogs.

This was a long and complicated incident that involved the cooperation among Animal Services, Clinton Section Police Investigators, and the DEC Law Enforcement Division. This job demonstrates the sort of proactive public service that we can provide and the type of teamwork that we hope to foster in the future. It should also be noted that Mr. Hawkins was cooperative and responsible throughout the investigation.



Am. Alligator observed at 15 Bremen St.

### CROSSWORD PUZZLE



#### Across

1. Pre-Op Label
5. Wild domestic
8. Cat Rm. Challenge
9. Digit
11. AC Supervisor
12. Dog
16. Fib
17. SIS Document
18. Permit
21. Weiner Dog
23. AC Dept.
24. AC unit (abr.)
25. Cat
27. Rin Tin Tin for one
29. Today's Dog Warden
30. Rabies for one (adj.)
31. Reason for quarantine
32. Arboreal rodent

#### Down

1. Castrate
2. Sheriff Griffith's boy
3. William Wegman's muses
4. AC Van noise makers
6. Health Dept. concern
7. Black & Tan dog
10. Yarn
13. Daughter (Spanish)
14. Dog talk
15. "Dobie" for one
19. To work for
20. Cat talk
21. Complete
22. Small Chinese dog
26. Exam
28. Kennel Attendant (abr.)



## Rochester Police Department Animal Services Unit

184 Verona Street  
Rochester, NY  
14608

Phone: 585-428-7274  
Fax: 585-428-6130  
cf1274@cityofrochester.gov

Get personal. Adopt a pet.

*Animal Services is a municipal animal care and control unit within the Rochester Police Department that is committed to improving quality of life and safety for city residents, the promotion of responsible pet guardianship, and the reduction of animal overpopulation to reduce animal suffering and euthanasia. Animal Services enforces all New York State and City of Rochester ordinances pertaining to animal control. We operate an animal shelter for stray, injured, menacing, and disowned animals. The shelter serves as a resource for locating lost pets and as an adoption center. We strive to provide the best possible care for all animals in our charge.*

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## Volunteer Corner

In general, volunteer attendance seems to drop off during the colder months, but it seems that our volunteers are remaining active and committed despite the weather. Many volunteers are still braving the elements to walk dogs around the shelter. Brown Square Park has been plowed a few times already this winter, and that certainly makes it easier for our dog walkers.

We had several volunteers participate in PETS MART's Santa Claws photo events during December. Thank you Robin, Alex, and Whitney Stein, Mary Beth, Sam Lagasse, and Cheryl, Lisa Frank, Justin and Cheryl Krall, Marie Zettek, Efraim Justice, Amanda Ross,

Melissa Hagelberg, Stephanie Marchese, April Hill, Nicholas Meyer, and Dee Masaro. If you are interested in volunteering or in getting involved in any promotional events, contact Yolanda Sayres at 428-7274.

Animal Services is looking for volunteers to work as actors in a loose dog video that we are producing. Anyone interested in being in the video either as a dog walker or as an owner reclaiming their missing dog should notify Yolanda, Chris, or simply leave your name and phone number with our front desk personnel.

Remember to use the footbaths after entering a cage and always wash or disinfect your hands before han-

dling another animal. Thanks and keep up the great work!



Volunteers assisted with photos with Santa Claws at both PETS MART locations